

Message Text

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PAGE 01 YAOUND 00567 020806Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 SS-15 L-03 HA-05 PRS-01 CA-01

VO-05 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 INRE-00

FBIE-00 SY-05 INSE-00 SSO-00 DODE-00 EUR-12 /078 W

-----000938 020817Z /17

P R 011630Z FEB 78

FM AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4484

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMCONSUL DOUALA

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L YAOUNDE 0567

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, CVIS, CM

SUBJ: REQUEST FOR ASYLUM: THEODRUS HAILE-MESKEL

REF: (A) STATE 24423, (B) YAOUNDE 503, (C) YAOUNDE 133(ALL NOTAL)

1. UNDP CONTACTED EMBASSY MORNING OF JANUARY 31, ADVISING THAT ORIGINAL OF DIPLOMATIC NOTE REQUESTING HAILE-MESKEL'S REPATRIATION TO ETHIOPIA AND APPENDED NOTE WRITTEN BY SUBJECT HAD BEEN RECEIVED. CONSULAR OFFICER WAS GIVEN COPY OF SUBJECT'S STATEMENT AND HAD OCCASION TO DISCUSS CASE WITH HENDRIK VAN DER KLOET, UNDP DEPUTY RES. REP. POSSIBILITY THAT HAILE-MESKEL'S STATEMENT COULD HAVE BEEN MADE UNDER DURESS WAS DISCUSSED AND VAN DER KLOET AGREED TO TALK PREIVATELY WITH SUBJECT IN ORDER ASCERTAIN HIS TRUE WISHES.

2. ALMOST CONCURRENTLY, HAILE-MESKEL WAS RELEASED FROM JAIL TO BE INTERVIEWED AT UNDP. HOWEVER, BEFORE REPORTING TO UNDP, SUBJECT STOPPED BY EMBASSY TO ADVISE OF HIS INCARCERATION AND WHAT HE THOUGHT TO BE HIS IMMINENT DEPARTURE FOR ETHIOPIA. HAILE-CONFIDENTIAL

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MESKEL WAS ADVISED TO KEEP APPOINTMENT AT UNDP AND URGED TO GET HIS STORIES TOGETHER.

3. SUBJECT RETURNED TO EMBASSY BOTH LATE YESTERDAY AFTERNOON AND THIS MORNING(FEB 1) ACCORDING TO HAILE-MESKEL, UNDP NO LONGER INTENDS TO PAY FOR HIS REPATRIATION TO ETHIOPIA BUT RATHER WILL BEGIN MAKE REPRESENTATIONS TO ITALIAN GOVERNMENT TO

ALLOW HIM TO BE PROCESSED BY REFUGEE CENTER IN ITALY.
SUBJECT IS NOT PLEASED WITH THIS DECISION AS HE FEELS ITALY
IS A SOCIALIST COUNTRY TIED TOO CLOSELY TO ETHIOPIA. HE STATED
THAT ITALY IS INFILTRATED WITH COMMUNISTS AND NOTED THAT
ITALIAN SOCIALISTS ARE SUPPOSEDLY STILL ACTIVE IN ETHIOPIAN
POLITICS TODAY. IN ADDITION, SUBJECT STATED, FOR THE FIRST
TIME, THAT HIS BROTHER, AT LAW HAILE-MESKEL IS LIVING IN ROME.
SUBJECT CLAIMS HIS BROTHER IS ALSO A SOCIALIST AND THAT FOR
THIS REASON, THEY HAVE ALWAYS QUARRELED. BROTHER SUPPOSED TO
HAVE ESCAPED ETHIOPIA IN 1974 AFTER FAMILY WAS RELEASED FROM
PRISON. THEODRUS HAILE-MESKEL CLAIMS THAT AT TIME OF
BROTHER'S ESCAPE HE WAS SERVING EXTRA TIME AS PUNISHMENT FOR
WRITING BOOK MENTIONED REFTEL C.
SMYTHE

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Message Attributes

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Concepts: POLITICAL ASYLUM
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Draft Date: 01 feb 1978
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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